

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 /069 W

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R 081435Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 1771

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0325

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: JEWS ATTEMPT TO AGAIN PRAY IN HARAM (TEMPLE MOUNT);

NABLUS ERUPTS IN PROTEST

REF: JERUSALEM 0280

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 5, ABOUT 50 JEWISH YOUTHS ATTEMPTED TO PRAY ON HARAM (TEMPLE MOUNT) MARCH 7 BUT WERE TURNED BACK BY JERUSALEM POLICE ON GROUNDS THAT PRAYERS COULD LEAD TO DISTURBANCE OF PEACE. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, YOUTHS ARE MEMBERS OF BETAR, A HERUT PARTY YOUTH MOVEMENT, AND WERE LED BY TWO LIKUD CITY COUNCILMEN, RABBI L.I. RABINOWITZ AND GERSHON SOLOMON. SOLOMON CITED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ATTEMPT JAN 28 RULING BY LOCAL MAGISTRATE THAT JEWS HAVE RIGHT TO PRAY ON TEMPLE MOUNT POLICE CHIEF DAVID KRAUS SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO ENFORCE BAN ON PRAYER. AFTER RELATIVELY BRIEF ENCOUNTER GROUP OF ARAB YOUTH DISPERSED PEACEFULLY. DURING ENCOUNTER GROUP OF ARAB

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YOUTH ASSEMBLED ON HARAM IN FRONT OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE BUT ALSO

DEPARTED PEACEFULLY WHEN OTHERS LEFT.

2. PRAYER ATTEMPT PROVOKED DEMONSTRATIONS IN SCHOOLS IN NABLUS AND RAMALLAH, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS. ISRAELI TROOPS REPORTEDLY ENTERED QADRI TUCAN HIGH SCHOOL IN NABLUS AND CLASED WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS REPORTS "SCORES" INJURED, THREE SERIOUSLY. THE POST SAYS TEN WERE ARRESTED. ISRAELI RADIO REPORTED SOME STUDENTS "TREATED ROUGHLY" BY POLICE WHO ENTERED SCHOOL AFTER STUDENTS STONED THEM. CITY OFFICIALS HAD REQUESTED TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL AREA TO AVOID CLASH. NABLUS CITY COUNCIL, HEAD OF THE MUNICIPAL EDUCATION DEPT. AND STAFF, AND STAFF OF TUCAN HIGH SCHOOL HAVE RESIGNED IN PROTEST. MILGOV REFUSED RESIGNATIONS INITIALLY BUT SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT THEM IF RESIGNEES INSIST. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: WHILE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE STANDING FIRM IN REFUSING PERMISSION FOR JEWS TO PRAY ON TEMPLE MOUNT, POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER VIOLENT REACTION FROM ARAB YOUTH WILL BE HIGH IF THREATENED DAILY EFFORTS BY BETAR YOUTH MATERIALIZE. NABLUS CITY COUCIL RESIGNATIONS MAY WELL BE WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING NEGOTIATION FO GRIEVANCES WITH MILGOV, ESPECIALLY IF CITY IS THREATENED WITH APPOINTMENT OF ISRAELI ADMINISTRATOR.
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